

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
 - establishing a connection between a wireless electronic device and one or more supervisory devices associated with a local area of wireless coverage;
 - negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the one or more local area supervisory devices; and
 - determining which functions are available for use on the wireless device in the local area based on the outcome of the negotiation.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the environment protocol further includes one or more priority levels associated with the local coverage area and a priority level associated with each function of the wireless device.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the local area supervisory devices further includes:
 - comparing the one or more priority levels associated with the local area supervisory devices to each wireless device function priority level; and
 - setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function based on the results of the comparison.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function further comprises:
 - allowing the operation of functions that have a higher priority level than any local area supervisory device priority level; and
 - disallowing the operation of functions that have a lower priority level than a local area supervisory device priority level.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein determining which functions are available on the wireless device further comprises configuring the wireless device to operate with the settings most preferred by the user that are still allowed by the one or more local area supervisory devices.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the environment protocol is comprised of a set of preferences associated with the functions of the wireless device and a set of preferences and restrictions associated with the one or more local area supervisory devices.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the local area supervisory devices further comprises:
 - comparing the priority level associated with each local area supervisory device preference and restriction to the priority level associated with each wireless device function; and
 - setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function based on the results of the comparison.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the one or more local area supervisory devices further comprises:

comparing local area preferences and restrictions associated with each local area supervisory device with capabilities and user preferences of the wireless device; and

setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function based on the results of the comparison.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of which functions are available to the wireless device is made by the wireless device.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of which functions are available to the wireless device is made by one or more of the local area supervisory devices.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of which functions are available to the wireless device is made by a combination of the wireless device and one or more local area supervisory devices.

12. A machine readable medium having embodied thereon instructions, which when executed by a machine, comprises:

establishing a connection between a wireless electronic device and one or more supervisory devices associated with a local area of wireless coverage; negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the one or more local area supervisory devices; and determining which functions are available for use on the wireless device in the local area based on the outcome of the negotiation.

13. The machine readable medium of claim 12 wherein the environment protocol further includes one or more priority levels associated with the local coverage area and a priority level associated with each function of the wireless device.

14. The machine readable medium of claim 13 wherein negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the local area supervisory devices further includes:

comparing the one or more priority levels associated with the local area supervisory devices to each wireless device function priority level; and setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function based on the results of the comparison.

15. The machine readable medium of claim 14 wherein setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function further comprises:

allowing the operation of functions that have a higher priority level than any local area supervisory device priority level; and

disallowing the operation of functions that have a lower priority level than a local area supervisory device priority level.

16. The machine readable medium of claim 15 wherein determining which functions are available on the wireless device further comprises configuring the wireless device to operate with the settings most preferred by the user that are still allowed by the one or more local area supervisory devices.
17. The machine readable medium of claim 12 wherein the environment protocol is comprised of a set of preferences associated with the functions of the wireless device and a set of preferences and restrictions associated with the one or more local area supervisory devices.
18. The machine readable medium of claim 17 wherein negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the local area supervisory devices further comprises:

comparing the priority level associated with each local area supervisory device preference and restriction to the priority level associated with each wireless device function; and

setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function based on the results of the comparison.

19. A system, comprising:
- a bus;
 - a processor coupled to the bus;
 - a network interface coupled to the bus; and
 - memory coupled to the processor, the memory adapted for storing instructions, which upon execution by the processor establish a connection between a wireless electronic device and one or more supervisory devices associated with a local area of wireless coverage, negotiate an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the one or more local area supervisory devices, and determine which functions are available for use on the wireless device in the local area based on the outcome of the negotiation.
20. The system of claim 19 wherein the environment protocol further includes one or more priority levels associated with the local coverage area and a priority level associated with each function of the wireless device.
21. The system of claim 20 wherein negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the local area supervisory devices further includes:
- comparing the one or more priority levels associated with the local area supervisory devices to each wireless device function priority level; and
 - setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function based on the results of the comparison.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function further comprises:
- allowing the operation of functions that have a higher priority level than any local area supervisory device priority level; and
- disallowing the operation of functions that have a lower priority level than a local area supervisory device priority level.
23. The system of claim 22 wherein determining which functions are available on the wireless device further comprises configuring the wireless device to operate with the settings most preferred by the user that are still allowed by the one or more local area supervisory devices.
24. The system of claim 19 wherein the environment protocol is comprised of a set of preferences associated with the functions of the wireless device and a set of preferences and restrictions associated with the one or more local area supervisory devices.
25. The system of claim 24 wherein negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the local area supervisory devices further comprises:
- comparing the priority level associated with each local area supervisory device preference and restriction to the priority level associated with each wireless device function; and
- setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function based on the results of the comparison.

26. The system of claim 19 wherein negotiating an associated environment protocol between the wireless device and the one or more local area supervisory devices further comprises:

comparing local area preferences and restrictions associated with each local area supervisory device with capabilities and user preferences of the wireless device; and

setting permissions for the operation of each wireless device function based on the results of the comparison.

27. The system of claim 19 wherein the determination of which functions are available to the wireless device is made by the wireless device.

28. The system of claim 19 wherein the determination of which functions are available to the wireless device is made by one or more of the local area supervisory devices.

29. The system of claim 19 wherein the determination of which functions are available to the wireless device is made by a combination of the wireless device and one or more local area supervisory devices.